

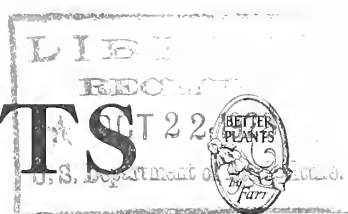
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BETTER PLANTS

God's first gift to man was a Beautiful Garden



VOLUME I

OCTOBER, 1923

NUMBER 7



A charming suburban garden in Rochester, N.Y., that shows correct landscape planning. The outer border of flowering shrubs furnishes color from early spring to time of autumn frosts. The marginal beds are gay with Iris, Peonies, Sweet William, Poppies, Chrysanthemums, and other perennials that prolong the blooming season.

The Great Stone Face in the Garden

In New England, perhaps on a motor tour, you will enter a valley famous for the natural stone image of a human face. Standing out in bold relief, the impressive features have for centuries cast their influence, unconsciously, but all the more firmly, upon the residents of this valley.

Hawthorne writes of the boy Ernest who, even more intensely than his neighbors, hoped for and predicted the coming of the man whose face would truly resemble the Great Stone Face.

Disappointments were many. Men of wealth, power, and fame were heralded as at last bearing the image of the Great Stone Face, and yet never the true resemblance appeared.

Ernest grew to be a man. Former playmates entered into the outside world and

attained the usual percentages of success and failure. Some of the successful returned to be acclaimed as the fulfilment of the village hope and prediction, but actual comparison would not justify the admission of resemblance; and no one was ever more keenly disappointed than Ernest.

Ernest became an old man—known, loved, and respected throughout the valley. None was kinder, more generous, more helpful. Happy and content, with but one longing—to realize his life-long hope of seeing the man whose face was the true image of the Great Stone Face. Each morning and evening through the years and seasons, fair or stormy, he gazed at the stone image across the valley and wished that he would live to see his hope fulfilled.

Then, one evening, as Ernest was straining his eyes toward the old familiar figure, with a few of the sun's last rays lighting up his countenance, a passerby and observer suddenly grasped the truth which had evaded the village for so long. Ernest, himself, bore the true image of the Great Stone Face. Who shall say that it was not the unconscious influence of the daily environment that molded not only Ernest's features but his very life and character?

Who shall say that living plants do not exert a similar influence on the observer? No, we do not sprout out from head or feet with leaves or roots, but, all the more powerful, because unconscious, the environment of plant beauty influences our thoughts, actions, and appearance.—H. G. SEYLER.



HEZA WYZWON

says, Get the Dutch bulbs in this month or you'll miss the blooms next spring.

OCTOBER GARDEN ACTIVITIES

Birds and butterflies and trees,
And the long hush of the breeze
Shimmering over the silken grass,
What wouldst thou have more than
these? —ROBERT NICHOLS

This is the climax month of the year. Plants seem to be making one final effort to glorify the outdoors before taking their winter rest. This month and next include the period during which the conscientious and wise gardener helps the plants in their preparation for the onslaughts of cold weather.

Loosen the soil around all plants and soak them often and generously with water. Your section may have had plenty of rainfall, but unless the soil was well loosened the roots did not receive the moisture necessary to nourish and prepare them for the dormant period.

Cut the grass as long as it continues to grow, but not too close. Allowing the cut grass to remain forms a splendid natural mulch. If your lawn has surface irregularities, apply a top dressing of good soil. So long as the dressing is not over 2 inches in depth, the grass will come through and make seeding unnecessary.

Ill-kept gardens breed diseases and insects. Clean up all refuse and burn stalks and other material likely to decay.

This is an excellent month to execute any changes you may have in mind. Practically all plants will stand moving after your first frosts.

The planting of new trees should be done now. With the dry summers which have prevailed for the past few years, fall planting has produced better results than when this work was done in spring.

This is an excellent dusting or spraying month. Write for information if you do not understand procedure.

Postpone most mulching until after frosts. November is, in most locations, the better time.

Get the materials for winter mulching now. Remember that the newly set shrubs will need mulching later on when the ground freezes, and get the material for this protection *now*. Get dry, well-rotted manure if possible; otherwise, marsh hay or leaves will answer the purpose.

Order and Plant Holland Bulbs Now

PLANT SHRUBS THIS MONTH!

RIGHT NOW is the best time of the whole year to add to the attractiveness and value of your place by improving the permanent features. Plant shrubs this month, any time before hard freezing, but the sooner the better. If you haven't followed our advice and ordered already, there is still time to do it—if you hustle. You can't spend your money in any other way that will bring as long-lasting and big returns. Well-planted grounds are equivalent to money in the bank. BUT—

Don't scatter shrubs indiscriminately over the whole place. Shrubs stuck around all over the lawn are worse than none at all. Plan your shrubbery planting carefully. Remember, it is for a long time. Keep the plants around the foundations of the house, near the boundary lines, or in corners or curves along paths where they can be seen to the best advantage, and will not break up other views. Group carefully, so that the taller ones will be kept to the back and the period of bloom extended over as long a season as possible.

Get ready for planting before your shrubs arrive. Mark out with great care where each thing is to go, and dig up the whole border and enrich it with bone and manure; or, if that is not feasible, dig out the individual holes to a generous size, much larger than merely large enough to take the ball of roots,—enrich it, and have it ready for planting as soon as the shipment arrives from the express office.

Take good care of all shipments immediately on receipt. If, in spite of your good intentions, your plants arrive from the nursery before you are ready for them, dig a trench in a well-drained part of the garden and "heel in"—simply undo the packages and set the plants out as thick as they will go in the trench, covering the roots with soil. Then take them out as wanted for planting, being careful not to expose the plants to sun or wind for more than a few minutes during the planting operations.

BULBS AND FLOWER BORDER

No plants will more surely give returns for good care in preparation of the soil than spring-blooming bulbs. If your Tulips, Narcissi, and Hyacinths have not yet come in, remember that they are likely to arrive at any time now, and the sooner thereafter you can get them into the ground the better. Prepare the bed in advance. Essential points are:

First—thorough drainage; fill in if not naturally good.

Second—rich soil; don't believe that "bulbs will grow in any soil"; they will exist, but for the best blooms enrich thoroughly with bone-meal, very finely rotted manure, or both. Avoid fresh manure, as it may rot the bulbs.

Make sure of the drainage, when planting, by dropping a handful or two of sand in each hole before putting in the bulb. Probably more bulbs are lost from rotting than from any other one thing, and this simple expedient affords the best protection. This is especially important in planting the hardy lilies.

Arrange for bulbs that may be received late—after the surface of the ground is frozen hard—by preparing the bed and covering it with straw or manure to keep from freezing.

Get ready material for mulching later. As with shrubs, winter protection will be wanted later for the bulbs, and *now* is the time to make preparations for it.

BETWEEN GAS STATIONS

Notebook Jottings on the August Vacation

Plant a tree for the next generation.

* * *

If I should die tomorrow I would plant a tree today.—STEPHEN GIRARD.

* * *

Cut back shrubs when planting. How much? One-third of the branches.

* * *

I have enjoyed plants that other men have planted, so why may I not do the like for other men?

* * *

Fortunate is the home-owner who has the berry-bearing shrubs to attract and hold the birds for a few extra weeks.

* * *

As is known, blue is the primary color of the delphinium, but in no other flower is there a wider gradation of that tint.

* * *

The three elements of successful gardening are (a) thorough preparation of soil, (b) conscientious maintenance, (c) planting good plants.

* * *

Whether you are a customer or not, you are welcome to mail questions to our office. You can expect to receive a prompt and thorough reply.

* * *

A plant does not exist for itself alone. Its one aim is to give its fruits to the future; to propagate itself. Nothing it gives comes back to it.

* * *

We employ one man to examine and to inspect all varieties as they bloom in the fields. He detects and straightens out any strays, mixtures, or untrue varieties that may occur.

* * *

Our supply of Wyomissing Hybrid delphiniums is the largest in years. The plants are the ideal size for transplanting. Field-grown, six months from pots. Ready to bloom next spring if planted now.

* * *

The columbine has been recommended for the national flower. Apart from name the long-spurred hybrids are well worth this consideration. The quality and strain of our plants are the result of years of hybridizing.

* * *

All of our orders are shipped on approval and we assume the risk of transportation. If the plants we furnish do not entirely satisfy you on arrival, send them back at our expense. That should settle any fears on the subject of quality.

* * *

If another proof shall be needed to proclaim the truth that "The diligent hand shall be pleased," the man who has planted hyacinths, tulips, and daffodils needs only go into his garden in the spring-time and see the wonderful flowers which these bulbs produce; he'll procure the proof right there.

GARDEN COLOR FROM BLUE-BIRD TO SNOWBIRD

Shrubs in Blooming Succession

See "Better Plants—By Farr" (first edition) for prices and descriptions.

Early Spring before Leaves Appear

Forsythia (April), yellow.
Honeysuckle, *Lonicera fragrantissima*, white; very fragrant.
Japanese Cherries, pink and white.
Dogwood, pink and white.
Magnolias, pink and white.
Red-Bud, deep pink.
Flowering Apple, pink and white.
Flowering Plum, pink.
Flowering Almond, pink.
Viburnum Carlesii, flesh.

Spring after Leaves Appear

Spiraea in variety, Thunbergii, arguta—white.
Spiraea Vanhouttei, white.
Hawthorn, pink, white, deep pink.
Lilacs in variety.
Viburnum in variety, dentatum, lentago, opulus—white; tomentosum, plicatum.
Lonicera in variety.
Cytisus (Laburnum), yellow.
Horse-chestnut, pink and white.
Deutzia gracilis, white.
Enkianthus, red and yellow.

Summer Bloomers

Deutzia, Pride of Rochester, flesh-white.
Philadelphus in variety, white.
Weigela hybrid, pink and white.
Roses in variety.
Callicarpa purpurea.
Rosa rugosa, red or white.
Spiraea, Anthony Waterer, pink.
Hydrangea arborescens, white.
Viburnums in variety, white.
Rubus odoratus, purple.

Late Summer

Spiraea Billiardii, rose-pink.
Althea, all colors.
Mallow Marvels, pink, white, and red.
Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora, white.
Potentilla fruticosa, yellow.
Coral-berry, small, pink.
Snowberry, small, pink.
Hypericum, yellow.
Pepper-bush, creamy white.

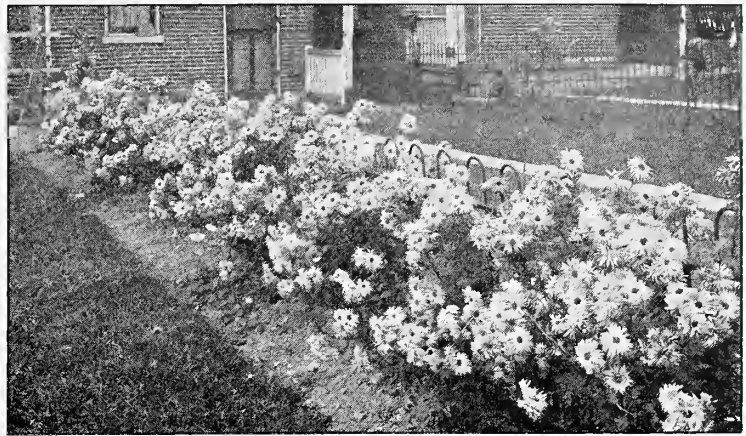
Shrubs for Late Fall Berries

Barberry.
Bittersweet.
Hawthorn.
Rosa Rugosa.
Bush Cranberry.
Elder.
Silky Dogwood.
Virginia Creeper.
Symphoricarpos vulgaris.
Symphoricarpos racemosus.
Lonicera.

Perennials in Blooming Season

Early Spring

Columbines, Aquilegia canadensis, light red and yellow.
Sweet Williams, Dianthus barbatus, mixed.
Evergreen Candytuft, Iberis sempervirens, white.
Crested Iris, Iris cristata.
Japanese Astilbe, Astilbe japonica, soft, delicate pink.
True Forget-me-not, Myosotis palustris, dark blue with yellow throat.



New England Asters and Hardy Chrysanthemums give color to the autumn garden

Holland Bulbs, tulips, hyacinths, narcissi, crocus.
Japanese Primrose, Primula Sieboldii, mixed.

Late Spring

Coreopsis lanceolata grandiflora, golden yellow.
Yellow Day Lily, Hemerocallis, Apricot, rich apricot.
Lemon Lily, Hemerocallis Flava, full yellow.
Lysimachia glomorata; mass plantings form solid sheets of golden yellow.
Peonies.
German Irises.
Pyrethrums, mixed colors.
Oriental Poppies.
Bachelor's Buttons, Ranunculus acris, golden yellow.
Aquilegia, long-spurred hybrids.

Early and Mid-Summer

Showy Larkspur, Delphinium formosum, dark blue.
Blanket Flower, Gaillardia grandiflora, mixed.
Plaintain Lily, Funkia subcordata, snow white.
Balloon Flower, Platycodon grandiflorum, blue.
Astilbe Thunbergii. Small flowers of pure white on spikes.
Butterfly Weed, Asclepias tuberosa, orange.
Japanese Irises.
Bellflower, Campanula, mixed.
Geum montanum maximum, yellow.
Lavender, Lavandula vera, fragrant blue flowers.
Campanula medium, Canterbury Bells.

Late Summer

Japanese Speedwell, Veronica longifolia subsessilis, bright blue flowers on long spikes.
Rock Rose, Helianthemum, mixed colors.
Blazing Star, Liatris pycnostachya, purple.
Lythrum roseum superbum, rose colored.
Artemisia lactiflora, creamy white.
Heliosis, Orange Sunflower, perpetual bloomer; fine for cutting.

Autumn

Dwarf Aster, Aster amellus, dark violet.
New England Aster, Aster novae angliae, rosy purple.
False Chamomile, Boltonia asteroides, white aster-like.

Chimney Bellflower, Campanula pyramidalis. Perfect pyramid, covered with large blue flowers.
Japanese Windflower, Anemone japonica, mixed.
Chrysanthemums. Hardy types mixed.
Sneezewort, Helenium autumnale, golden yellow with brown center.
Sunflower, Helianthus rigidus, golden yellow.
Cardinal Flower, Lobelia cardinalis, scarlet.
Goldenrod, Solidago, golden yellow.

HOW MANY TULIPS FOR A ROUND BED?

It is a simple matter to estimate with a fair degree of accuracy the number of tulips needed to plant a round bed. From the center of the bed mark the number of circles that the bed will contain; then, starting with one in the center, add six for each successive circle. In other words the number that any given circle is removed from the center, multiplied by 6, will give the number of bulbs required for that particular circle. Then, by addition, the total number of tulips needed for the bed may be found.

When Mistress Spring Comes to Your Garden

Her path should be lined with daffodils and tulips, those colorful blooms of May and June. For the gardener who wants an extra-choice assortment of spring flowers, I recommend

The Sunrise Collection No. 2

25 Narcissi, assorted varieties	. . . \$2 75
75 Single Early Tulips, assorted	. . . 2 50
75 Darwin Tulips, assorted	. . . 2 50
75 Breeder Tulips, assorted	. . . 2 50
25 Hyacinths, assorted	. . . 3 50

\$13 75

Any one collection at the price indicated. No discount applicable.

Complete Sunrise Collection No. 2, 275 bulbs, for only \$12.

Send your order now—you need not pay until you receive the bulbs.

Better Collections by Farr—for Spring Blooms

Farr's Irises Lovely as Orchids

When you know Irises as "June companions" they reveal their delicate, ethereal loveliness, and lead you into a wonderland of delight. Wouldn't you like to adopt them as a "hobby," just as I did many years ago?

MASTERPIECE COLLECTION

IRIS	Each
Cecile Minturn	\$5 00
Sea Gull	3 00
Seminole	2 50
Japanesque	3 00
Complete set (amounting to \$13.50) for \$12.00	

Second Rainbow Collection \$5

Experts who have seen these seedlings are enthusiastic in praise. Some varieties have taken prizes and all are exceedingly popular. Order this collection now and pay after the plants are received.

My Wyomissing Seedlings have become so famous with Iris experts that my friends say I ought to talk more about them. But I would rather have you see them, so I have made this special group of

	Each
Blue Jay, light and dark blue . . .	\$0 35
Chester Hunt, light and dark blue .	50
Glory of Reading, blue and purple .	75
Hiawatha, lavender and royal purple	75
Juniata, clear blue; tall	50
Mary Garden, pale yellow and white	50
Mt. Penn, lavender-rose and crimson-maroon	1 00
Navajo, yellow and maroon	1 00
Nokomis, light lavender and violet .	35
Pauline, pale violet	50
Paxatawny, violet and yellow . . .	75
Quaker Lady, lavender, blue and gold	75

\$7 70

One Plant of Each Variety for \$5
Order now and pay after you receive the plants.

BARGAIN LILAC COLLECTION

For \$5 cash I will furnish three French Lilacs in three varieties, my selection.

For \$10 cash I will furnish six French Lilacs in six varieties, my selection.

For \$20 cash I will furnish twelve French Lilacs in twelve varieties, my selection.

Odd quantities, my selection, at an equal rate of \$1.67 per plant. The average price of Lilacs listed in my catalogue is over \$2.50.

These Lilacs are offered on the "cash with order" basis. 100 collections have been reserved. Offer expires November.

Please send cash with your order.

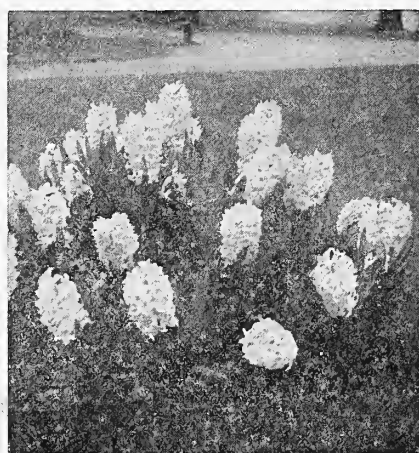
SPECIAL OCTOBER BARGAINS

	100	1,000
Poppy, Cerise Beauty	\$18 00	\$150 00
Veronica longifolia subsessilis	12 00	100 00
Heliopsis Pitch	12 00	100 00
Gaillardia	12 00	100 00
Anthemis		
Kelwayi	12 00	100 00
Hemerocallis Kwanso flore-pleno	12 00	100 00
ochroleuca	12 00	100 00
Symphoricarpos vul- garis. 2 to 3 ft.	25 00	200 00

At these rates not less than 25 plants will be sold. Twenty-five plants or more at the 100 rate, 250 plants or more at the 1,000 rate.

PHILADELPHUS VIRGINAL

A limited number of this superb flowering shrub are offered for sale this fall. They can be shipped this month or early next spring, as you desire. The price is \$2 each. For further description see my general catalogue, or page 6 of the September issue of BETTER PLANTS.



NIAGARA HAND-DUST GUN

The Niagara Hand-Dust Gun is a "machine gun" for plant enemies. Three to six times as fast as spraying. More economical in use and result.



For all garden vines, shrubbery and perennials. Price \$3.50, including 1 pound of All-In-One Dust and a copy of "Instructions for Exterminating Garden Pests," a 40-page book.

All-In-One Dust is effective for scales, sucking insects, mildew, blight and chewing insects.

Sounds like a "cure all" but money back if unsatisfactory at any time.

Bertrand H. Farr—Wyomissing Nurseries Company
1250 Garfield Avenue, Wyomissing, Penna.

To Those Who Receive "Better Plants"—by Farr

If you are not one of our regular customers, and would like to be sure of receiving future issues of BETTER PLANTS, send us 50 cts. for a year's subscription, in advance. Your name will then remain on our mailing list for one year, even though you may not order plants or bulbs during that time. Any issue, or even any paragraph, may save you many times the subscription price.

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L. C. Corbett
Bureau of Plant Industry
U S Dept of Agriculture
Washington D C

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A Magazine devoted to the Hardy Garden